

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1016 - SB 1243

March 24, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Increases, from a maximum of 50 to all 100, the number of questions from the civics test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, which a local education agency (LEA) is required to use on a civics test administered to its students. Increases, from 70 percent to 75 percent, the number of questions that a student must correctly answer to receive a passing score on the test. Requires that a student must pass the civics test described in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-408 in order to receive a full diploma upon graduation from high school; and requires the passing score to be notated on a student's transcript. Excludes students who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) under which a civics test would be inappropriate.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Up to \$10,000/One-Time

Increase Local Expenditures – Up to \$10,000/One-Time

Assumptions:

- High school students currently must participate in a civics assessment but it is not required for graduation; a student must correctly answer 70 percent of the questions to pass and can take the test as many times as needed to score 70 percent or better.
- If the civics assessment becomes a graduation requirement, it will require tracking and monitoring, record keeping and increased test security.
- DOE may be required to revise or rewrite standards in order to align with the 100-question Naturalization test.
- The proposed legislation may result in a need to rewrite the state's social studies standards and may require questions to be removed and replaced on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP).
- LEAs may require additional resources to manage tests scores in case of an audit and work with special populations and school Individualized Education Program teams.
- While a precise impact to state and local government expenditures is unknown, it is reasonable to assume there could be some one-time costs associated with making the proposed changes. Based on information provided by DOE, the one-time increase in

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state expenditures and the one-time increase in local expenditures are each estimated as amounts up to \$10,000.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/alh